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August 24, 2004

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: WT Docket No. 04-70

Dear Chairman Powell:

I support the proposed merger between Cingular Wireless LLC ("Cingular") and AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. ("AWS"). I currently serve as the Immediate Past President of the National Emergency Number Association ("NENA") and as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Wireless 911 Board, so I am quite familiar with the importance of wireless communications in the provision of emergency response (fire, medical, and police) to our citizens. I have also been an active participant in the Commission's enhanced 911 ("E911") proceeding - CC Docket No. 94-102.

Emergency service providers need ubiquitous E911 service from both wireline and wireless providers. One of the limitations of wireless E911 service is that it is coverage dependent. By merging, Cingular and AWS will significantly expand their coverage. This will directly benefit the public interest and promote the Commission's statutory public safety mandate by expanding the areas in which callers can access E911 service.

Cingular's and AWS' ongoing E911 deployment (and compliance with their existing consent decrees) is a matter of record. Phase 2 deployment on the Cingular GSM network in North Carolina began recently and is accelerating. Nationally, Cingular Wireless has consistently exceeded the benchmark for GSM cell site deployment. For example, the March 12, 2004 benchmark requiring 4000 cell sites to be deployed was exceeded by more than 1200 cell sites. For all these reasons, I urge you to grant their

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application as quickly as possible. The people of North Carolina look forward to enjoying the safety and security benefits.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Taylor', written over the printed name.

Richard N. Taylor, ENP

